Linking of schools with education satellite

†682. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to connect all the schools of the country with the education satellite; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A Core Group has been constituted to suggest ways of sharing EDUSAT resources for all sectors of edcuation, including school education.

Entrance tests for technical courses

683. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has framed any policy for entrance tests for admission to technical courses in the professional educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has revised its policy for admission for technical and professional courses from the academic session 2005-06. According to the new policy, admissions in undergraduate programmes in all the centrally funded educational institutions like National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), National Institute of Forge and Foundry Technology (NIFFT), Ranchi, School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and other Institutes of Central Government, as specified will be made through All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). All other educational institutions like Central/Deemed Universities will have the option of participating in the above examination or conduct their own entrance examination and admit students in a fair and transparent manner.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The State Governments shall continue to hold their own common entrance tests for admissions in institutions within their States as before. However, States willing to participate in the AIEEE for all or a part of the total seats in the State can participate in AIEEE.

Status of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

684. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was officially launched and whether the required number of students have been covered and the funds released therefor;

(b) the number of schools in various States brought under its purview, State-wise;

(c) whether any additional number of teachers were required to be employed; and

(d) if so, the number of such teachers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in the year 2001-02 and covers all the States and Union Territories except Goa, so far. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan targets all children in the age group 6-14 and Govt. of India has released Rs. 9877 crores to the States/UTs implementing this programme, upto the end of February, 2005. Based on the Annual Work Plans and Budgets submitted by the States and Union Territories, sanctions for 1.37 lakhs new schools and 6.68 lakhs teachers have been given so far. State wise details are given in the Statement I and II (Please refer to Statement I and II appended to the answer of Unstarred Question No. 659.

Ranking of Indian Universities

685. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single university from India is ranked among top 100 institutions in the world according to the recent compilation for the year 2004 by Shanghai Jiao Tong University for Institutions of Higher Education;

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind this pathetic situation of our Universities; and